

# What's New in the MPDC

JUNE 24, 2002

## CHIEF RAMSEY ANNOUNCES BIASED POLICING PROJECT

\*\*\*\*\*

The MPDC is teaming up with the DC-based Police Foundation in an intensive new effort to identify and address possible sources of bias in the delivery of police services by the MPDC. The "Biased Policing Project" is one of the most extensive examinations of the issues surrounding racial profiling and other forms of bias within a major city police department, Chief Ramsey said. The Police Foundation will conduct focus groups and surveys, analyze best practices and use other assessment tools. The project will look into sources of tension and possible bias within the MPD, in areas such as recruitment, promotions and assignments, as well as community perceptions of the nature and extent of bias in the delivery of police services by the MPDC. In addition, the Police Foundation will design an instrument and protocol for the MPDC to collect, analyze and interpret data on various police-citizen contacts, including traffic stops. Ramsey announced that two committees have been formed to assist with the Biased Policing Project: a Community-Police Task Force will help look at issues of bias from a community-based perspective; an MPDC Employee Committee will help analyze issues of bias within the organization. Learn more about the project, including the members of the two committees, at:

*Established in 1970, the Police Foundation works with law enforcement agencies nationwide on a variety of innovative projects. Learn more about the organization by visiting its Web site:*

**[www.policefoundation.org](http://www.policefoundation.org)**

**[mpdc.dc.gov](http://mpdc.dc.gov) (Click on News Room)**

## USE-OF-FORCE STATISTICS AVAILABLE ON THE WEB

\*\*\*\*\*

As part of its commitment to keep the public informed about use-of-force issues within the MPDC, the Department has begun publishing regular statistical reports on police use of force. The "Use of Lethal Force" report summarizes incidents in which MPDC officers have used their service weapons. The most current report shows that through June 11, 2002, there have been 10 intentional firearms discharges at other individuals – identical to the number at this time last year. There have been four fatalities and two injuries so far this year, compared with two fatalities and seven injuries from January through June 2001. The "Less than Lethal Uses of Force" report contains statistical information on officers' uses of their ASP batons, OC spray and canines. Both reports are produced by the MPDC's Force Investigation Team (FIT), a specialized unit Chief Ramsey established three years ago to investigate all use of force by MPDC officers. You can get copies of both reports by calling the FIT unit at 202-727-9901 or by visiting the Publications page of the MPDC Web site:

*The MPDC's Compliance Monitoring Team has released its first progress report on implementation of the use-of-force memorandum of agreement with the US Justice Department:*

**[mpdc.dc.gov/news/pubs/pdf/FIT\\_progress\\_0402.pdf](http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/pubs/pdf/FIT_progress_0402.pdf)**

*The MOA requires the MPDC to inform residents about the process for the filing and investigation of citizen complaints of misconduct by officers. Learn about the process at:*

**[mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/citizencomplaints.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/citizencomplaints.shtm)**

**[mpdc.dc.gov/news/pubs/pubs.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/pubs/pubs.shtm)**

## ROC-EAST LAUNCHES "40 DAYS OF INCREASED PEACE"

\*\*\*\*\*

As part of an ongoing partnership to reduce youth violence in neighborhoods east of the Anacostia River, the MPDC's Regional Operations Command-East and the East of the River Clergy-Police-Community Partnership (CPCP) will hold their second annual "40 Days of Increased Peace" this summer – a series of daily events in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Police Districts designed for young people and their families. Police and community leaders officially kick off the "40 Days" with a news conference on Monday, June 24. The "40 Days" conclude on August 2, with an "Increase the Peace" block party, in the 4100 block of First Street, SE. Throughout the "40 Days" will be a series of athletic, spiritual, health and other outreach activities focusing on young people and families. For more information about specific "40 Days" activities, or to volunteer your services, call the CPCP (373-5767) or ROC-East (645-5333). Read the news release at:

**[mpdc.dc.gov](http://mpdc.dc.gov) (Click on News Room)**

## TRAVELING THIS SUMMER ... THINK SAFETY

\*\*\*\*\*

The MPDC offers a number of safety reminders to residents who may be traveling this summer. Chief among them: take steps to secure your home while you are away and to give the impression that the home is still "lived in." These steps could include using timers to turn on and off lights, television sets and radios; stopping newspaper delivery, and having someone take in your mail or other flyers that may accumulate at your door. Best of all, get to know your neighbors, and ask them to keep an eye on your home while you are away. When traveling in another city, the same

*A special precaution to flyers who carry laptop computers: learn how to protect your computer from thieves by going to:*

**[mpdc.dc.gov/info/consumer/laptop\\_theft.shtm#fly](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/consumer/laptop_theft.shtm#fly)**

*Printed materials on a variety of safety topics, as well as in-person presentations, are available from the MPDC's Community Outreach Section. To request materials or a presentation, call 202-727-0783.*

"street smarts" and other safety precautions you exercise at home – while driving, walking or riding public transportation – are even more critical, because tourists are frequently targets. The MPDC Web site offers a number of safety tips, from street smarts to burglary prevention. Access them at:

**[mpdc.dc.gov/info/tips.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/tips.shtm)**

\*\*\*\*\*

*Information, ideas or comments about this service?*

*E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov).*

*Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with [crimereports.com](http://crimereports.com).*

**METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE**  
**MPDC.DC.GOV**